

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00297 011733Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /043 W  
-----076649 020255Z /70

R 011651Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8190  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0297

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, IC  
SUBJECT: WILDCAT STRIKE: MIXED RESULTS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0289 (DTG 281652Z FEB 78)

1. CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE BY LEADERS OF ICELAND'S FEDER-  
ATIONS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS MET WITH PARTIAL  
RESPONSE TODAY. SOME SEGMENTS OF ECONOMY HAVE COME TO A  
HALT AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN HIT, BUT FOR MOST PART DISRUPTION  
OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY HAS BEEN MODERATE.

2. BANKS, BUSINESS HOUSES AND OFFICES ARE FULLY STAFFED,  
DOMESTIC PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (AIR AND SURFACE) IS OPER-  
ATIONAL, AND POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FUNCTIONS ARE  
BEING CONDUCTED AS USUAL WITH EXCEPTION OF TELEGRAPH SECTION.  
MEDICAL SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE OPEN AND WORKING  
NORMALLY; UTILITY WORKERS ARE CARRYING ON WITHOUT INTERR-  
UPTION. MOST CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES ARE ON THE JOB ALTHOUGH  
PORTS ARE CLOSED BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF DOCK AND WARE-  
HOUSE EMPLOYEES. STATE RADIO BROADCASTING ON REGULAR  
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SCHEDULE BUT TELEVISION WILL SHUT DOWN AS RESULT OF  
42-41 STRIKE VOTE. BULK OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY SHOWED  
UP FOR CLASSES BUT MANY ELEMENTARY AND HIGHT SCHOOL  
TEACHRS HAVE STAYED AWAY THEREBY CLOSING SOME SCHOOLS.

3. SERIOUS SIDE OF SITUATION IS CLOSURE OF FISH  
MARKET AND FREEZING PLANTS (ALTHOUGH FISHERMEN NOT OB-

SERVING STRIKE), SHUT-DOWN OF NEWSPAPERS BY PRINTERS, AND HALTING OF CONSTRUCTION WORK. ALUMINUM PLANT ALSO SHUT DOWN WITH ONLY SKELETON MAINTENANCE CREW ON DUTY. ALTHOUGH MOST GAS STATIONS WERE OPEN IN MORNING, MANY HAD CLOSED BY AFTERNOON (PERHAPS AS RESULT OF PER-SUACTION BY "STRIKE GUARDS"), AND THERE APPEARED TO BE FEWER THAN NORMAL NUMBER OF TRUCKS ON THE ROAD. MILK DELIVERIES REPORTEDLY WILL BE INTERRUPTED THOUGH STORES SEEMED TO HAVE ADEQUATE STOCKS ON HAND TO WEATHER ONE OR TWO DAY INTERRUPTION OF SUPPLY. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL WOULD BE SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF REFUELERS AND SOME BAGGAGE AND CUSTOMS PERSONNEL, BUT LOFTLEIDIR FLIGHTS ARRIVED FROM CHICAGO AND EUROPE.

4. NATO BASE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. A FEW WORKERS ARE OUT BUT GUARDS HAVE NOT SLOWED ENTRY TO BASE, CUSTOMS PERSONNEL ARE ON DUTY, AND ALL MILITARY OPERATIONS REMAIN UNAFFECTED.

5. LABOR RALLY IN DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK MARCH 1 HAD REASONABLE GOOD, THOUGH NOT OVERWHELMING, ATTENDANCE. SEVERAL HUNDRED SPECTATORS HEARD FEDERATION LEADERS SPEAK ON LABOR "AT THE CROSSROADS" IN ITS NEED TO HAVE FULL COMPENSATION FOR INFLATIONARY INCREASES IN PRICES. SPEAKERS CONDEMNED GOI'S NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVED CROWD'S ENDORSEMENT WHEN THEY CALLED WAGE AGREEMENTS SIGNED LAST YEAR INVALID.

6. COMMENT: RESULTS OF QUOTE GENERAL STRIKE UNQUOTE CANNOT HELP BUT BE DISAPPOINTMENT TO LEFTIST LABOR LEADERS WHO ENCOURAGED THIS ILLEGAL WALKOUT, BUT IT IS TOO SOON TO CONCLUDE GOVERNMENT HAS WON ITS CAMPAIGN FOR DEFLATIONARY ECONOMIC PROGRAM.  
BLAKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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